

**OFFICIAL**

**HARTMAN AND HARTMAN, P.C.**  
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ATTORNEYS  
552 EAST 700 NORTH  
VALPARAISO, INDIANA 46383

GARY M. HARTMAN  
DOMENICA N.S. HARTMAN\*

TEL: (219) 462-4999  
FAX: (219) 464-1166

\* Also Admitted to Practice in Michigan

December 30, 2003

To: Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

FAX # (703) 872-9302

**Attention: Examiner MARK ROSENBAUM**  
**Group Art Unit 3725**  
**Phone Number: (703) 308-1788**

**RECEIVED**  
**CENTRAL FAX CENTER**

DEC 30 2003

**OFFICIAL**

**Re: OFFICIAL RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR §1.111**

The following is an OFFICIAL RESPONSE to an Office Action filed November 7, 2003, in the below-identified U.S. Patent Application.

Application No. : 09/683,967 Confirmation No. 9298  
Applicant : Douglas R. Sparks  
Filed: : March 7, 2002  
TC/Art Unit: : 3725  
Examiner : Mark Rosenbaum  
  
Docket No. : A1-1423

Submitted by:  
Domenica N.S. Hartman  
Reg. No. 32,701

The information contained in this facsimile message is privileged or confidential information to be used only for the purposes intended by the individual or entity named above. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, or the employee or agent responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is neither allowed nor intended. If you have received this communication in error, please immediately notify us by telephone at the above number, and return the original message to us at the above address via the United States Postal Service. Postage will be reimbursed upon request.

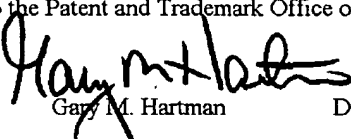
Page 1 of 20

**OFFICIAL****RECEIVED  
CENTRAL FAX CENTER**

DEC 30 2003

**OFFICIAL**

PATENT

<b>CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION</b>	
I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.	
 Gary M. Hartman	Date: December 30, 2003

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. :	09/683,967	Confirmation No. 9298
Applicant :	Douglas R. Sparks	
Filed: :	March 7, 2002	
TC/Art Unit: :	3725	
Examiner :	Mark Rosenbaum	
Docket No. :	A1-1423	
Customer No. :	27127	

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.111

Please charge the \$55.00 fee under 37 CFR §1.20(d) for the statutory disclaimer filed herewith to the deposit account of Hartman & Hartman, P.C., Account No. 08-0960.

In response to the Office Action dated November 7, 2003 (Paper No. 5), please amend the above-identified United States patent application as follows: